

## Teacher's Department.

**The Spelling Match.**  
No branch of our education has been and is now generally neglected as that of philology; and there is no study which can open to the student a more inviting field. Ours is a composite language, to the making of which almost every language has contributed, and hence in ours, more than in any other, the necessity ex-

insistances; men in a study of the parentage of the words, if those words are to be significantly used. Men daily use hundreds of words of the origin and meaning of which they are utterly ignorant. They do not seem to know that words, like children, grow and change, and that the meaning which may attach to a word to-day, is a different from the meaning the word has had as the man of to-day is

How many, for instance, who use the word, know that "tribulation" meant nothing more than the threshing out of wheat with flails, until the persecution of Christians gave it its deeper significance; that "funeral" means nothing but a burning rope the Romans carried when they burned a dead body; that a "candidate

was once so called because, when soliciting office, he dressed in white. A "Senate" was once an assembly of old men; that "to subjugate" was literally to "go under the yoke"; that a "clerk" once meant a priest, then a scholar, and again a clergyman; and that in law, in England, a clergyman is still called a clerk; that "Secretary" once meant one to whom

secrets were continued; and the phrase "phalerina" once meant that which a woman brought to her husband in excess of her dowry; that "derriekle" got its name from a noted hangman of that name. And if we are ignorant of the meaning of the word itself, it follows that the chances are very much in favor of our blundering in its orthoepy and orthography; and so it happens daily that we mispronounce

Mr. Dar-  
age has re-  
Professor

And this is the reason why the class that competed for the prizes, at Beckett's Hall, last Friday night, was so small. Of the twenty-eight people in it it is not too much to say

that each of them can seat himself at a desk and write page after page without misspelling a word; but here the eye comes to his aid and detects the mistake, if a mistake is made; but they lose their ally when they spell orally, and they fall out after another under such words as believe, invitation, wholly, ensue, cipher, subtlety, curfew, allow-

received a gold Baker, where he and the other Eubanks. He reports with as the

to Egypt. changed, and Miss Rosean's elegant copy of Scott's Poetical Works. The "hard spelling class" did not meet the expectations it had created, but a few entered it, and after a short contest the prize—a spelling book—was awarded to John B. Lawder, the champion "hard speller." The judges then had a bout, the conditions being that the hardest speller should be responsible for the preparation

The judges of the evening were Rev. D. J. Starr, W. E. Brown, J. Falconer and Col. Moore; Prof. E. gave out the words. The hall was crowded, many coming in from the country, and the managers realized about \$100 from the sale of tickets.

There is no feature of our school system so vital to its success as that which places at the door of every school room a Board of Examiners to determine who is qualified to enter as a teacher and guide of youth.

They are the sentries of the school system, and upon their fidelity and efficiency depend, to a great extent, its character and usefulness. No other school officers need a truer conception of their duties, or a more ardent devotion to the cause of education.—[O. Ed. Monthly.]

ness, yet per-  
own strength.  
where some-  
gold which  
—[Swift.